(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ;

(c) the number of employees, category-wise, of Vayudoot who have been absorbed so far as per the abovementioned orders of the Ministry ;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(e) by when Government propose to absorb all the employees of Vayudoot and the modalities of the same ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (e) Only those vacancies, for which suitable Vayudoot employees are not available, are filled from the open market. Vayudoot employees are yet to be absorbed. The process has been initiated and preparatory work is being done.

Shortcomings in the working of the Air India

3902. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General has, in its report No. 3 of 1993 (Union Government-Commercial) pointed out some shortcomings in the working of Air India ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the action taken or being taken by Government to remove these shortcomings ; and

(d) the details regarding percentage of total cost losses shown in Annual Report of Air India ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The Report has brought out that some of the investments made by Air India as at the end of the financial year 1991-92, which were in the form of Portfolio Management Scheme (PMS) deposits in the Citibank, deposits in the Indbank Merchant Banking Services Ltd., "Ready Forward" transactions etc. were in contravention of the provisions of the Air Corporations Act and instructions issued thereunder—which were applicable at the time the investments were made.

(c) Government's displeasure has been conveyed to Air India in this regard, and the CMD was asked to take urgent action to ensure that all investments were strictly in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Act. Action has also been initiated by Air India to fix responsibility for the irregular investments.

(d) No losses have been reported by Air India.

Contract for Helicopter for Oil India Pipeline in Assam

3903. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a requirement of a helicopter for Oil India Pipeline in Assam ;

(b) if so, which parties were contacted for providing a helicopter ;

(c) whether Vayudoot was one of the parties who had a Bell Jet Ranger (206-A) with them, rentable for the job ;

(d) why was PHL granted this contract, when they did not have a suitable machine available with them and were permitted to sub-lease the contract, and under what terms and conditions ; and

(e) the amount that Vayudoot could have earned had it been given the contract ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Only M/s. Pawan Hans Limited was contacted by Oil India.

(d) The contract was awarded by Oil India in its best commercial judgement to Pawan Hans Limited, which is a Government company, and with whom Oil India had earlier business relations.

(e) Does not arise.

Licence to Sahara India Airlines

3904. SHRI O. P. KOHLI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the D.G.C.A. was initially not prepared to grant air taxi operator's licence to Sahara India Airlines on the ground that it had no experience in aviation ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the request for licence was rejected initially, but was reconsidered by Government : and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.